

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DELAHUNT, William D. (Democrat)
Representative, 10th District, Massachusetts
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Quincy, Massachusetts - 18 July 1941

Home: Quincy, Massachusetts

Marital status: Divorced - 2 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Middlebury College, B.A., 1963; Boston College Law School, J.D., 1967

Military: Coast Guard / Coast Guard Reserve – 1963-71

Profession: Prosecutor

Political: MA State House, 1973-76; Norfolk County District Attorney, 1976-96. Defeated Edward Teague (R) with 54% of the vote for the seat of retiring Rep Gerry E. Studds (D). Reelected in 2000 with 75%, and in 2002 with 69% of the vote.

Rep Delahunt is a liberal and described as outgoing and affable. While a capable partisan debater, cultivates working relationships with more conservative members. Is considered the leading advocate for the Coast Guard in Congress. Favors lifting the moratorium on Internet taxes and supports continuing enforcement of environmental standards on military bases. Supports an end to the trade embargo of Cuba. Favors linking human rights conditions to any military aid to Colombia and rejects the Bush administration's rationale for not supporting the International Criminal Court. Denies the notion that the panel poses a threat to US military personnel. (CQ, 2003)

In the 105th Congress joined Sen Kennedy in supporting efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend training at the Massachusetts Military Reservation's (MMR) Camp Edwards because of suspected environmental damage to the Cape Cod aquifer. Subsequently suggested that much of the land used by the Army National Guard to train at the MMR become a wildlife refuge. Supports the economic redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. As part of the House Judiciary Cmte's impeachment proceedings against President Clinton, co-authored a censure resolution.

In the 106th Congress, was selected to serve on the Democratic Steering Committee and appointed co-chairman of the bipartisan House Older Americans Caucus. Said he found considerable irony in the question of what is our national interest in Kosovo. Thought that question was unequivocally answered by America's action during and after World War II in Europe. Opposed a provision barring the Pentagon from paying fines for environmental violations on military installations in FY00. In the 107th Congress encouraged the use of the MMR as a homeland security training facility. Chided the Bush administration for not including Congress in its emergency planning to relocate a "shadow government" to bunkers outside the Washington D.C. area after the September 01 terrorist attacks. Opposed a unilateral US attack against Iraq. In the 108th Congress said that while he opposed the war in Iraq, Congress should come together to support the troops.

Addition: Co-chair of the Coast Guard Caucus; is a roommate of Sens Schumer (D-NY), Durbin (D-IL) and Rep George Miller (D-CA). In 1975 adopted a Vietnamese baby girl. Avid Boston Red Sox baseball fan. Member of the Impact Aid Coalition.

AF Bases: Otis ANGB

COMMITTEES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – Subcs on: Europe; Western Hemisphere

JUDICIARY – Subcs on: Commercial & Administrative Law; Courts, the Internet, & Intellectual Property